



Alabama  
Stage & Screen  
HALL OF FAME

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Shelton State Community College  
Theatre Tuscaloosa  
and  
**THE ALABAMA STAGE AND SCREEN  
HALL OF FAME**

The Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame was founded in 1998 by Theatre Tuscaloosa and Shelton State Community College to honor Alabamians, by birth or adoption, who have made significant contributions to film, television or theatre through their work.

There are a great many Alabamians who have had international careers in the performing arts. When members of Theatre Tuscaloosa realized, while the state had "halls of fame" recognizing motor sports, music and business leaders, among others, it seemed absurd that there was not a hall of fame that memorialized contributions to the performing arts by Alabamians.

A Selection Committee has the daunting task of choosing the honorees for each year. Representing various areas of the state, the committee's duty is to meet once every other year, review lists of famous Alabamians, as well as nominations that are received from throughout the state, and make their selections.

In April 1999, the Hall of Fame inducted its first class of honorees, including the late actress Tallulah Bankhead, actress and author Fannie Flagg, and philanthropists Mr. and Mrs. Winton M. Blount, who contributed over \$21 million dollars for a new home for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Subsequent ceremonies have included Lois Wilson, Polly Holliday, John Badham, Nell Carter, Rebecca Luker, Truman Capote, the movie "To Kill a Mockingbird", George Lindsey, Dean Jones, Hugh Martin, Nat King Cole, Tom Cheronos, Johnny Mack Brown and Brett Buttler.

Tonight we proudly add two more stars to this firmament.



THE ALABAMA STAGE AND SCREEN  
HALL OF FAME

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*Executive Producer*

**Ray Taylor**  
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**Dennis Harkey**  
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Doug Perry, Susan Miller, Sandra Ray,  
Annette Steele, Ray Taylor, Carol Woodruff



# THE PROGRAM

## **"Our Favorite Sons"**

From the musical *The Will Rogers Follies*

Music by Cy Coleman

Original lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green

Lyrics adapted by Stephan Deghelder Arrangement by  
Ray Reach

Performed by

Drew Baker Ava Buchanan Lisa Waldrop Kathy Wilson

Greg Hagler Charles Prosser Ray Taylor Brent Jones

## **Ronnie Schell**

Master of Ceremonies

## **Tribute to Rick Bernstein**

Presented by

Cris Collinsworth

## **Award Presentation**

Angela Hamiter

Brittney McAllister

2006 Gala Co-Chairpersons



# **Tribute to Jim Nabors**

Presented by  
Ronnie Schell

Award Presentation  
Angela Hamiter      Brittney McAllister  
2006 Gala Co-Chairpersons

## **"Meet Our Guest"**

From the musical *Beauty and the Beast*

Music by Alan Menken

Original Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Tim Rice

Lyrics adapted by Stephan Deghelder Arrangement by  
Chris Gordon

Performed by the company

**BRETT BUTLER**

**Finale**

**"Stars Fell on Alabama"**

Performed by the Company





## Richard L. Bernstein

Like most teenage boys, Rick Bernstein grew up with a fondness for sports. As a teenager, he took it upon himself to sell souvenirs at college football games at Birmingham's Legion Field. While this part time job provided Bernstein with additional spending money, it was the excitement and energy of a sports environment which initially drew this thirteen year old to the "Football Capital of the South". It was during one of these games, when Bernstein, selling souvenirs near the ABC Sports production trucks, met one of ABC's technicians. In befriending Bernstein, the technician told him that "on occasion, ABC hires local kids as runners, also known as gophers, who assist their production personnel during



their telecasts". With this in mind, Bernstein returned to Legion Field one year later in 1971, when ABC was in town to televise a University of Alabama football game. Remembering what he had been told the year before, the 14 year old tracked down ABC's Assistant to the Producer, Andy Crawford, who was responsible for hiring the runners and gophers for that particular telecast. Although Crawford had already hired everyone he needed, the young man would not take no for an answer, telling Crawford, "You won't hire me because you think I'm too young". To that, Crawford handed Bernstein a broom and told him to sweep up...thus the beginning of Rick Bernstein's television career.

Over the years, and still not old enough to drive, Bernstein would convince friends with a car and driver's license to go with him to Jackson, MS, Knoxville, TN, Athens, GA, Gainesville, FL and other SEC schools to work college football games for ABC. Paying \$25 per day, ABC would generally provide one hotel room for the six to eight part time young men hired to work that weekend's game.

By the time Bernstein left for college at the University of Missouri, he had firmly established himself within the free lance ranks of ABC Sports. Throughout his four years at Missouri, from 1975 to 1979, Bernstein traveled approximately 35 weekends a year for ABC. For four consecutive years the college student worked in the graphics area for every game of ABC's new startup series Monday Night Baseball, and would cover events such as the 1976 Summer Olympics, the World Series, the Indy 500, the 1980 Winter Olympics, the US Open (Golf), Wide World of Sports and Monday Night Football.



Following graduation, Bernstein moved to New York in 1980 to begin work on a one month project for the then, relatively new Home Box Office. As HBO began to establish itself as one of America's most unique and innovative television networks, such would also be the case with the HBO Sports division.

Today, the sports production department consist of nearly 75 individuals, producing approximately 80 shows a year. Recognized as THE network of boxing, HBO's World Championship Boxing has covered the biggest fights and fighters of the last quarter of a century. 2006 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> year of "Inside the NFL," as it continues to pride itself as the longest running television series on cable television.

HBO Sports has carved out a niche within the sports television industry and is highly respected throughout. And Bernstein has pretty much seen it all. Beginning as an Assistant to the Producer for World Championship Boxing, Inside the NFL, Wimbledon and Documentaries, in the years to come, Bernstein would eventually produce all four of these series. In 2000, Bernstein was named Executive Producer of HBO Sports, with the responsibility of overseeing the production of all HBO Sports programs and working with HBO's esteemed roster of talent, including, Bob Costas, Bryant Gumbel, Jim Lampley, Cris Collinswoth, Dan Marino, Cris Carter, Roy Jones, Larry Merchant, Frank DeFord, Bernie Goldbert, Mary Carillo, James Brown and Armen Keteyian.

Thirty five years ago, with broom in hand, Bernstein was sweeping out a press box in Birmingham, Alabama. Today, residing in Larchmont, New York with his wife Jane and children Joby (11), Jimmy (9) and Katie (7), Bernstein can still be found sweeping.....his garage.





## Jim Nabors

Jim Nabors is an entertainer of international status whose ability to combine the charm of a sophisticated modern country gentleman with the ingenuousness of a traditional country cousin has made him one of America's most beloved personalities. Blessed with a quick wit and a rich classical baritone, Jim's natural talents as a character actor were discovered when he portrayed "Gomer Pyle" in a guest appearance on the Andy Griffith Show. "Gomer" became a series regular and later the star of his own show "Gomer Pyle USMC". Jim later starred as the host of "The Jim Nabors Hour", and gave television



audiences across the country the opportunity to learn what Las Vegas audiences had known for years that Jim Nabors is a sophisticated and multi talented entertainer in his own right.

The son of Mavis and Fred Nabors, Jim was born and raised in Sylacauga, Alabama, where he first began singing in his high school's glee club and church choir.

A show business career was soon set aside when Jim entered the University of Alabama to major in business administration. Upon graduation, he moved to New York and worked as a typist for the United Nations. After a year, he decided to return to the south and worked as a film cutter in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Still suffering from childhood asthma, he was advised to move west. He moved to Los Angeles and got a job as an apprentice film cutter at NBC. At nights, he performed at The Horn in Santa Monica. His occasional performances became nightly appearances as he devoted increasing amounts of energy to perfecting his singing style. Bill Dana took notice of his hillbilly monologues and operatic arias and invited him to audition for The Steve Allen Show. He became a regular for the season. Soon after he quit his job at NBC, The Steve Allen Show was canceled.

Deciding to try his luck in San Francisco, he performed at The Purple Onion, another showcase for new talent. After six months, he decided he might do better back in Los Angeles.

Soon after he returned to Los Angeles and The Horn, Andy Griffith saw him and asked Jim to audition for the part of a bumbling gas station attendant, Gomer Pyle. The rest, as they say, is history.



Jim's unique career has included all aspects of the entertainment industry and earned him a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1991.

He has recorded twenty eight albums and numerous singles and has garnered five gold and one platinum record.

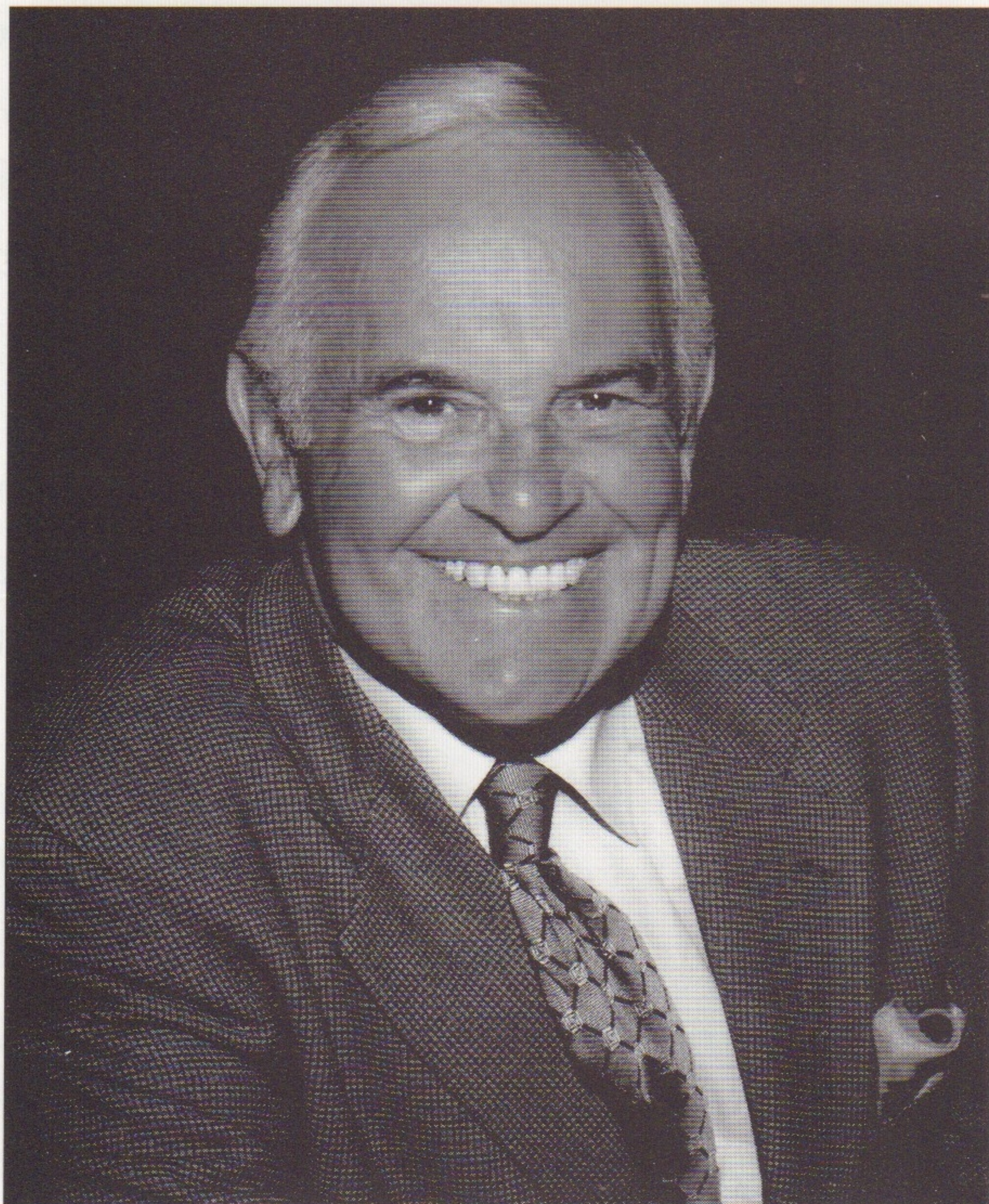
In addition to his television and recording careers, he has always performed on the personal appearance circuit. However, he briefly interrupted his personal appearance schedule when he became a permanent resident in Hawaii. He embarked on a successful two-year engagement at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, where his lavish "The Jim Nabors Polynesian Extravaganza" played to capacity audiences nightly.

Jim's stage debut was as Harold Hill in "The Music Man", a musical production at The Burt Reynolds Dinner Theatre with Florence Henderson. He recreated that role at the Birmingham Summerfest Theatre in Alabama.

His movie career includes "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" with Burt Reynolds and Dolly Parton. In "Stroker Ace", he was Burt's ace mechanic and Loni Anderson's confidant. He also had a cameo role in the star studded production of "The Cannonball Run II." His first movie for TV was a sentimental and nostalgic project as it reunited him with many of the original members of the cast of "The Andy Griffith Show" for "Return to Mayberry" which remains one of the highest rated TV movies in history.

When he is not performing, one can find Jim at his home in Honolulu or on a tractor in Hana, Maui, on his macadamia nut farm where he also grows tropical flowers.





## Ronnie Schell

Born and Raised in Richmond, California, Ronnie was kicked out of school several times for his outrageous behavior. Despite this comic behavior, his desire was not to be a performer, but rather to be a professional baseball player. He played semi-pro baseball before deciding to join the Air Force.

While in the Air Force, he began touring bases in an Air Force variety show. Schell went on to travel with the Air Force dance band, "The Airmen of Note," as an emcee and comedian.



When Schell finished his tour of duty he decided he enrolled in San Francisco State University where he developed a comedy routine with a friend which turned into a five month stint in a San Francisco nightclub called The Purple Onion.

Ronnie spent three years on tour opening for The Kingston Trio and other numerous singers in Las Vegas. While performing at the Hacienda his manager called and said they were looking for someone to play "Gomer's best friend" on a new show starring Jim Nabors.

Schell got the part of "Duke Slater" on "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C." and his television career was born. This part lasted until 1969, with a brief break in 1967, when Schell tried his hand at another show, "Good Morning, World" with Goldie Hawn.

His films include: "Fatal Instinct," directed by Carl Reiner and "Revenge of the Red Baron," with Mickey Rooney and Laraine Newman. Schell also co-starred in a comedy video with Tim Conway called, "Dorf Goes Fishing."

Besides appearing on "The Andy Griffith Show" and as a regular on "The Jim Nabor's Hour," Schell's television appearances include co-starring for three years as Marlo Thomas' agent "Harvey Peck" on ABC's "That Girl" and guest starring on top rated TV series like "General Hospital," "Yes, Dear" and "Coach" to name a few.





## Brett Butler

Described variously by critics as "Zelda Fitzgerald meets Lenny Bruce" and "Harper Lee carrying a concealed weapon," Brett Butler roared onto the national stage with her network television debut on "Nightlife" with David Brenner, followed by her breakthrough performance on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson." Brett was soon chosen to write and perform on "The Dolly Parton Show." In 1991 she was approached by The Carsey-Werner Company, producers of "The Cosby Show" and "Roseanne," and offered an opportunity to turn her life and stand-up act into a situation comedy.



Debuting in 1993, "Grace Under Fire" was an instant hit, becoming the top rated new comedy of 1993. On several occasions, it was the top rated show in the nation. In its historic five-year run, "Grace Under Fire" was nominated for three Golden Globes, two Emmys and three prestigious Humanitas Awards. It received multiple honors from the Viewers for Quality Television and won The People's Choice Award for Favorite New Series.

Her autobiography, *Knee Deep in Paradise*, was not only a bestseller, it was widely hailed by critics as one of the best-written celebrity autobiographies in many years.

Whether on her beloved "Grace Under Fire," or plying her comic talents in clubs and venues across the nation, or guest starring on NBC's new hit comedy "My Name Is Earl," Brett amazes everyone with her wit, unique observations on the human condition and her blazing intelligence.

Brett Butler was honored by the Alabama Stage and Screen Hall of Fame in 2004.



# Cris Collinsworth

As one of the premier wide receivers in football, Cris Collinsworth made catching a football for the Cincinnati Bengals seem effortless. When his career in the NFL ended in 1989, the Florida native glided smoothly to his next career as a broadcaster with HBO Sports.

Widely regarded as the premier studio analyst, he received a Sports Emmy® Award in April 1998 as "Outstanding Studio Analyst" and his second in 1999, re-affirming his status as a respected football broadcaster. His excellence in broadcasting continued to be recognized with his third and fourth Sports Emmy® Awards in 2003 and 2004 as "Outstanding Sports Personality/Studio Analyst." Last May he added a fifth statuette with an Emmy® Award again in the category "Outstanding Sports Personality/Studio Analyst" for his work on HBO.

Collinsworth has hosted a nightly radio sports talk show in Cincinnati and served as a broadcaster for NBC Sports on the NFL. During NBC's coverage of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, he served as a track & field reporter.

The University of Cincinnati Law School graduate ended his playing career in 1989 and immediately was hired by HBO Sports executive producer Ross Greenburg as a feature reporter for "Inside The NFL." Proving a natural as a broadcaster, he has been outspoken on a number of issues, including fair play rules, franchise relocation and the salary cap.



# Elizabeth MacRae

Actress Elizabeth MacRae appeared in several motion pictures and on many television shows in the course of her acting career. Her movie roles include appearances in Francis Ford Coppola's "The Conversation," as well as parts in "For Love or Money," "The Incredible Mr. Limpet," "Everything's Ducky" and others. On television, for three seasons, she played Gomer Pyle's girlfriend, Lou Ann Poovie, on "Gomer Pyle, USMC," and, for another three seasons, she played Festus's girlfriend April on "Gunsmoke." She had guest starring or co-starring roles on more than 50 television series, including "Barnaby Jones," "Kojak," "Mannix," "The Fugitive," "Dr. Kildare," "Andy Griffith," "I Dream of Jeannie," "77 Sunset Strip," "Surf Side 6" and numerous other shows.

MacRae studied acting in New York City with Uta Hagen at the Herbert Berghof Studio and at the Art Student's League. MacRae was born in Columbia, South Carolina, and raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She was educated at the Holton Arms School in Washington, D.C.



# Maggie Peterson

"Music was always a part of our home," Margaret Ann "Maggie" Peterson remembers. "When my brother Jim found an old broken banjo under Daddy's bed in Polk, Nebraska, he started playing and fell in love with it." The kids soon found their mother's old ukulele, and soon the seeds of their first band were planted.

Two of Jim's pals, Gordan Ellinger and Don Royer, began to play music with him regularly. They settled into a Dixieland style, harking back to a Roaring Twenties sound, with Jim on banjo, Gordon on drums, Don on piano and Peterson on the stairway. The boys thought she was too young to perform, so she was left to sing to herself on stairs while the boys practiced in a nearby room. Finally at age 12, Peterson joined the Group billed as the Ja-Da Quartet.

Around 1954, at a Capitol Records convention, Dick Linke heard Peterson sing and was impressed with her and encouraged her to look him up if she was ever in New York. In 1958 she did just that. The group was on the Perry Como Show and Pat Boone-Chevy Showroom and in 1959 released their album "It's the Most Happy Sound." The boys decided to go back home and Peterson went back for a while but returned to N.Y. and joined a new group. They traveled for several years in resort areas such as Las Vegas, Tahoe, Reno, etc. On that tour Peterson was discovered by "The Andy Griffith Show" director Bob Sweeney and producer Aaron Ruben. The rest is history. Maggie Peterson became the beloved Charlene Darling.



She has also appeared on "Green Acres," "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.," "The Odd Couple" and more and in movies with Andy Griffith and Don Knotts. She has enjoyed working in Nevada as a location scout for big screen movies such as "Rain Man," "Casino," "Honeymoon in Vegas" and others.

## Barbara Stuart

Barbara Stuart attended drama school at the "Schuster-Martin School of Drama" in Cincinnati, Ohio, founded by Tyrone Power's aunt and then studied in NYC with Uta Hagen and Stella Adler. In between shows, she modeled to pay for acting classes. Her first big break was a national tour of "Lunatics and Lovers" with Zero Mostel. This led to her first television series, playing "Bessie" in "The Great Gildersleeve" based on the classic radio show, "Fibber McGee and Molly".

Stuart went on to do several other television series. She's particularly fond of three of them. "The Queen and I" with Larry Storch was the forerunner of "The Loveboat." "Our Family Honor" with Eli Wallach was an 80's mafia series in which she played the wife of the Godfather. However, her favorite television experience was on "Gomer Pyle" playing "Miss Bunny," Sgt. Carter's girlfriend.

She guest-starred on scores of other television shows including: "The Twilight Zone," "Perry Mason," "Rawhide," "The Dick Van Dyke Show," "The Andy Griffith Show," "Batman," "T.H.E. Cat," "Kung Fu,"



"Starsky and Hutch," "Trapper John, M.D.," "Taxi," "Quincy," "Three's Company," "New Love, American Style," "L.A. Law," and "Nash Bridges". She also acted in such films as, "Airplane," "Dreamer," "Hellfighters" with John Wayne, "Marines" and "Let's Go" directed by Raoul Walsh. One of her favorite roles was playing Tom Hanks' mother-in-law in "Bachelor Party".

She was married for many years to the actor, writer, and artist Dick Gautier. Her pride and joy is a dollhouse he built for her which started her interest in miniatures. She has three step-children.

## ALABAMA STAGE AND SCREEN HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Mr. & Mrs. Winton M. Blount  
1999



Fannie Flagg  
1999



Tallulah Bankhead  
1999



John Badham  
2000



Nell Carter  
2000





Polly Holiday  
2000



Lois Wilson  
2000



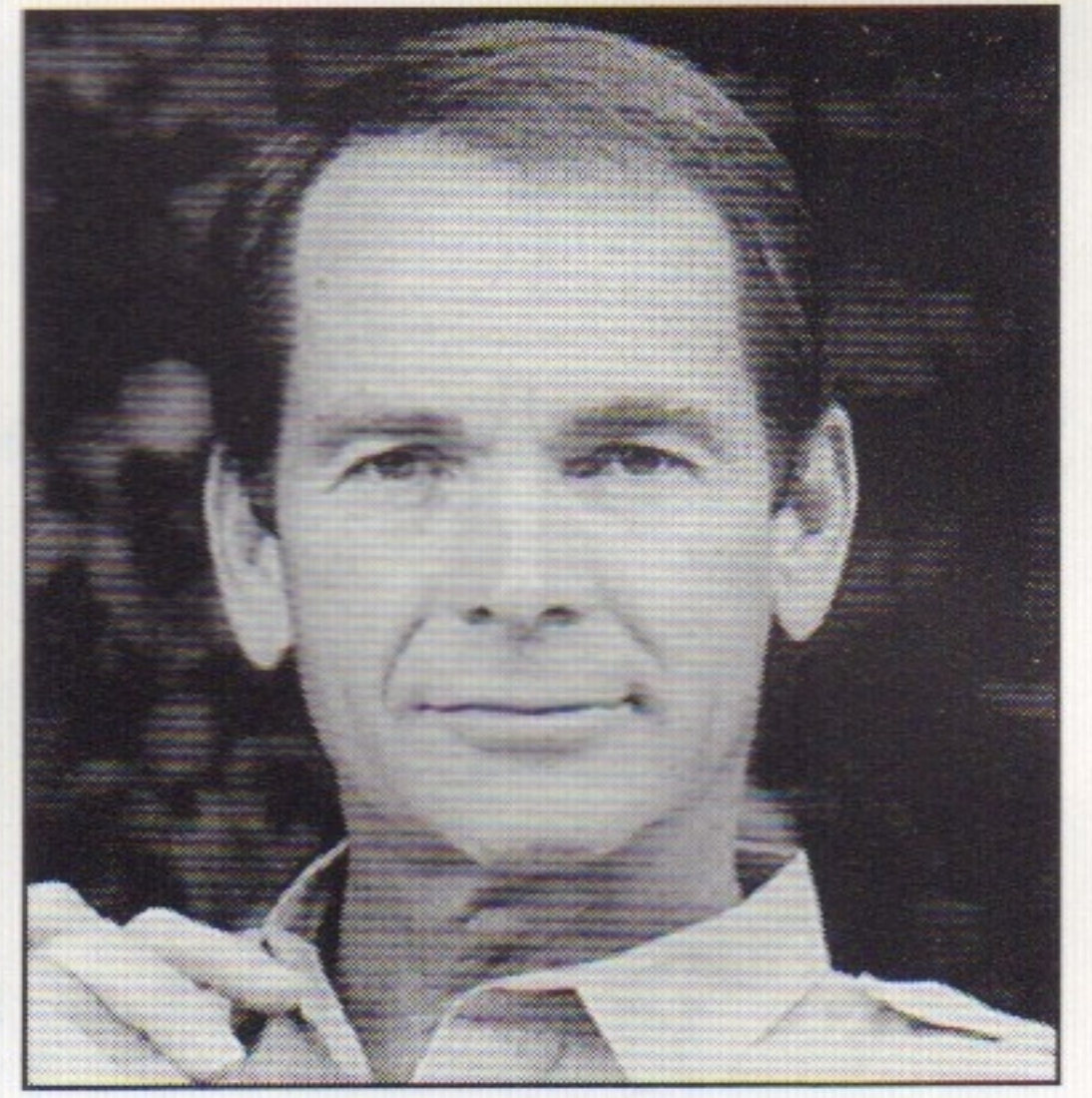
To Kill A Mockingbird  
2001



Truman Capote  
2001



Rebecca Luker  
2001



Dean Jones  
2002



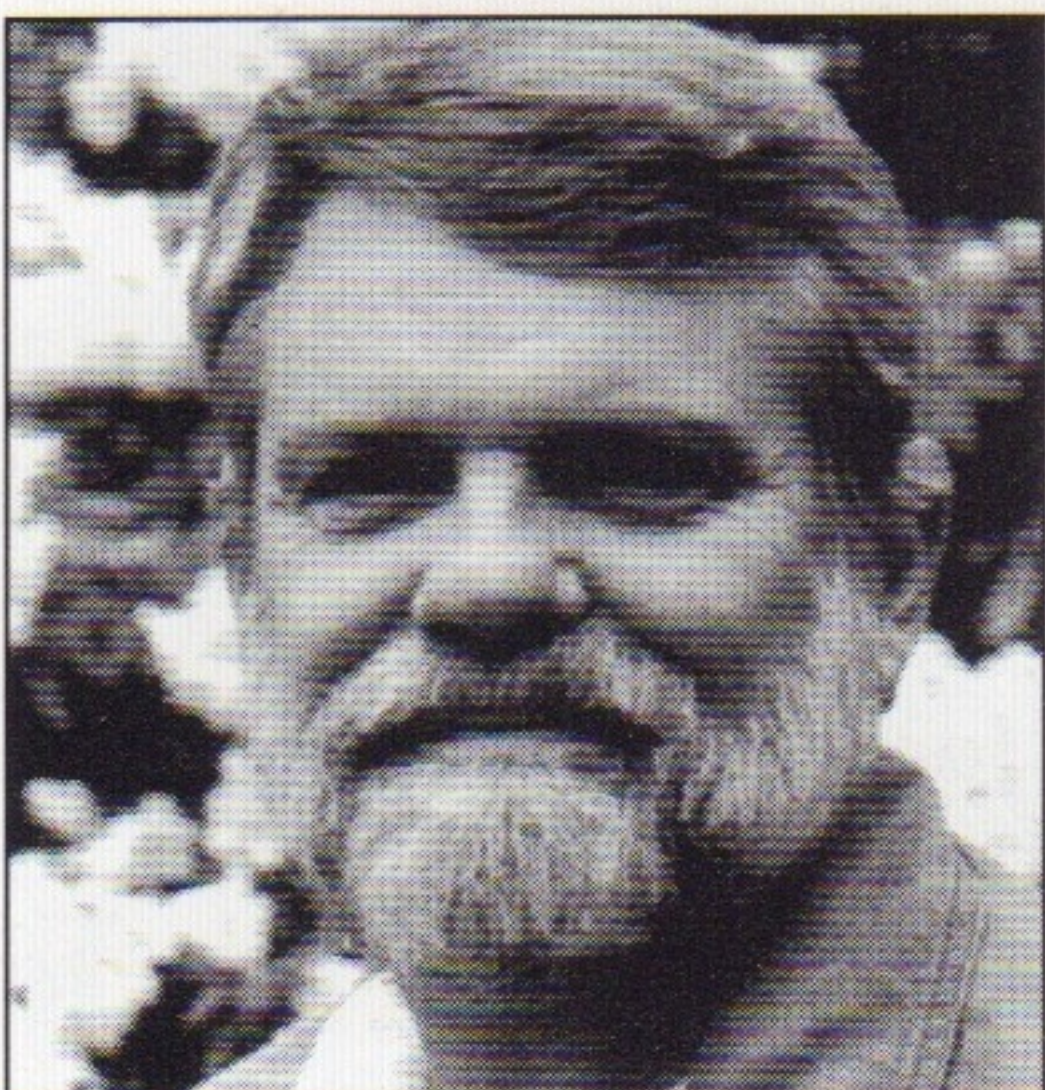
George Lindsey  
2002



Hugh Martin  
2002



Nat King Cole  
2003



Tom Cheronos  
2003



Johnny Mack Brown  
2004



Brett Butler  
2004



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**W**ith great sorrow, we honor the sudden passing  
 of our friend and long-time technical director  
 Charlie Dennis on April 12, 2006.  
 Charlie's dedication to our theatre  
 and the arts in Alabama was unequalled.

Prior to joining Theatre Tuscaloosa, Charlie served as  
 lighting designer/technical director for  
 Summerfest Musical Theatre in Birmingham,  
 UAB Town & Gown Theatre, Celebrity Dinner Theatre  
 and as a scenic studio supervisor at the  
 University of Alabama. For his art, his passion and  
 his friendship, he will remain forever in our hearts.





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\* *Artistic Director - Emeritus*